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HOUSE MEMORIAL 82

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

Ray Begaye

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS AND THE VETERANS' SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF CREATING AND FUNDING A NEW MEXICO MILITARY FAMILY RELIEF FUND.

WHEREAS, families of New Mexico military personnel injured or killed in the line of duty often have extraordinary travel, accommodation and other expenses; and

WHEREAS, these families are not given sufficient assistance by the military to cover these expenses; and

WHEREAS, many New Mexicans would be willing to make donations to help these families; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico currently has an optional tax refund checkoff provision allowing taxpayers to donate part of their income tax refund to the department of military affairs to be used to assist members of the New Mexico national guard

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1 activated for service in the global war on terrorism and their
2 families; and

3 WHEREAS, there is no other mechanism for citizens of New
4 Mexico to contribute additional amounts to assist members of
5 the armed forces and their families; and

6 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial for all involved if a New
7 Mexico military family relief fund was created as a mechanism
8 to receive and distribute the tax refund checkoff contributions
9 and additional contributions to assist military families; and

10 WHEREAS, many other states have established military
11 family relief funds and some states, including Arizona, provide
12 an income tax credit for amounts donated to the military family
13 relief fund; and

14 WHEREAS, there are many issues to be considered in
15 establishing a similar fund in New Mexico, including whether
16 the fund would be created and administered as a state
17 government entity or as a private nonprofit entity; the best
18 methods to encourage contributions to the fund, including
19 income tax deductions or credits; and the difficulties in
20 complying with the anti-donation clause of the constitution of
21 New Mexico;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
23 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department
24 of military affairs and the veterans' services department, in
25 cooperation with the Navajo Nation department of veterans

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1 affairs and other Native American military or veterans affairs
2 agencies, be requested to study the feasibility of creating a
3 New Mexico military family relief fund to receive and
4 distribute contributions for the support of New Mexico military
5 families, particularly the families of those injured or killed
6 in the line of duty, and the feasibility of various methods of
7 securing funding; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the results of the study and
9 recommendations be presented to the appropriate interim
10 legislative committee prior to the start of the second session
11 of the forty-ninth legislature; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the governor, the adjutant general of the
14 department of military affairs, the secretary of finance and
15 administration, the secretary of taxation and revenue, the
16 secretary of veterans' services and the director of the
17 legislative finance committee.

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